

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated February 3, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicant hereby amends claim 1, 7, 10 and 24. Claims 3 and 21-22 have previously been canceled, and claims 9 and 12-20 have previously been withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-11 and 23-24 are pending for examination.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-11, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,266 to Kodate (hereinafter “Kodate”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,862,050 to Rho et al. (hereinafter “Rho”), U.S. Patent No. 5,926,235 (hereinafter “Han”) and Applicant’s admitted related art (hereinafter “ARA”).

With regard to claim 1, as amended, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teaches or suggests the combined features of claim 1. More specifically, the cited references fail to teach “...a thin film transistor on the lower substrate and including a gate electrode connected to the gate line and under the gate insulating layer, an active layer on the gate insulating layer, an ohmic contact layer on the active layer, a source electrode on the ohmic contact layer, and a drain electrode on the ohmic contact layer and spaced apart from the source electrode; a pixel electrode disposed on and in contact with the gate insulating layer and the thin film transistor, wherein the pixel electrode contacts a side surface of the ohmic contact layer and a top surface of the drain electrode” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

The pixel electrode in the claimed invention contacts the side surface of the ohmic contact layer as well as the top surface of the drain electrode. As a result, a contact resistance is

reduced such that an electrical property of the thin film transistor is improved. The above feature is not disclosed by the cited references. For example, in figure 8 of Kodate, a pixel electrode (10) merely contacts an active layer (46). None of other cited references remedy the deficiencies. For example, in figure 3 of Rho, a pixel electrode (140) merely contacts a top surface of a drain electrode (90). Since the drain electrode (90) covers top and side surfaces of an ohmic contact layer (72), the pixel electrode (140) never contacts the side surface of the ohmic contact layer (72). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 and claims 2 and 4-6, which are dependent from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

For similar reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits none of the cited reference disclose the above features of amended independent claims 7, 10 and 24. Because the cited references fail to teach the combined features recited in independent claims 1, 7, 10 and 24, claims 1, 7, 10 and 24 are allowable over the cited references. In addition, claims 2 and 4-6, which depend from claim 1, claim 8, which is dependent from claim 7, and claims 11 and 23, which are dependent from claim 10, are allowable over the cited references by virtue of their respective dependence from independent claims 1, 7, 10 and 24. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested. .

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and discussion place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: May 3, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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